

University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Aerospace Engineering and Geology
Double BS, June 2004

**NASA Academy Research Project:
Mars, Water and Habitability:
Investigations of Data from Mars
Missions and Terrestrial Analogs**

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Education and Experience:

I have always been interested in airplanes, rockets, and spaceflight, so it really wasn't a surprise to anyone when I decided to study aeronautical engineering (my parents would blame it on the Legos). About a year into college, after having taken an introductory geology course (and loving it), I decided to study geology as well. The reason for this was less academic, and more because the other geology students were a lot of fun. Besides, in what other major are you expected to beat rocks apart with a hammer? Needless to say, these are two very different majors, but one place that they intersect is in astrobiology and space exploration. How cool is that!

I have worked on a variety of research activities, most of them completely unrelated to one another. I worked at UW's Seismology Lab for two years, during which we had the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually earthquake (the lab was getting a little boring up until that point). Through this job, I was able to travel all over the Pacific Northwest, installing seismographs, doing GPS surveying, working with emergency management personnel, and doing outreach.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program; myself and four friends designed and flew a manufacturing experiment aboard NASA's KC-135 "Weightless Wonder" microgravity research aircraft in the summer of 2002. We flew with the experiment, and got to float around inside the aircraft. This was definitely a cool experience!

I also performed a geobiology research project looking at how heat-loving bacteria unexpectedly caused oxidation at a natural mineral spring in the Cascade Mountains.

Another summer, I built and tested components for a high-altitude balloon payload, while learning about high-altitude atmospheric electrodynamics; something I never thought I'd be doing.

All these experiences were very different, but each one made me want to learn more and expand my education.

Extracurricular Activities:

I love the outdoors! I run, scuba dive, bike, sail, kayak, and hike, rock climb, snowboard and ski, and am an astronaut going-to-be. I like shooting off rockets, flying RC aircraft, and throwing Frisbees and boomerangs around. I am a licensed amateur radio operator and a broke student pilot. I enjoy traveling, meeting new people, and trying new things.